

Versions of claims 1 and 16 marked up to show changes made thereto follow:

1.(Amended) A method of increasing the service life of a titanium aluminide alloy in contact with a molten material comprising aluminum, comprising including in the titanium aluminide alloy a rare earth element in an effective amount to prolong resistance to attack of the alloy by the molten material and contacting said alloy with said molten material.

16.(Amended) A method of prolonging resistance of a titanium aluminide alloy to a molten material comprising aluminum, comprising contacting the alloy for a time with said molten material, removing the alloy from [the] contact with said molten material, heating the alloy in an oxygen-bearing atmosphere at elevated superambient temperature to form a surface oxide thereon, and re-contacting the alloy having the surface film thereon [in the] with said molten material.